THE WAY TO HAPPINESS

A Chinese Demonstration

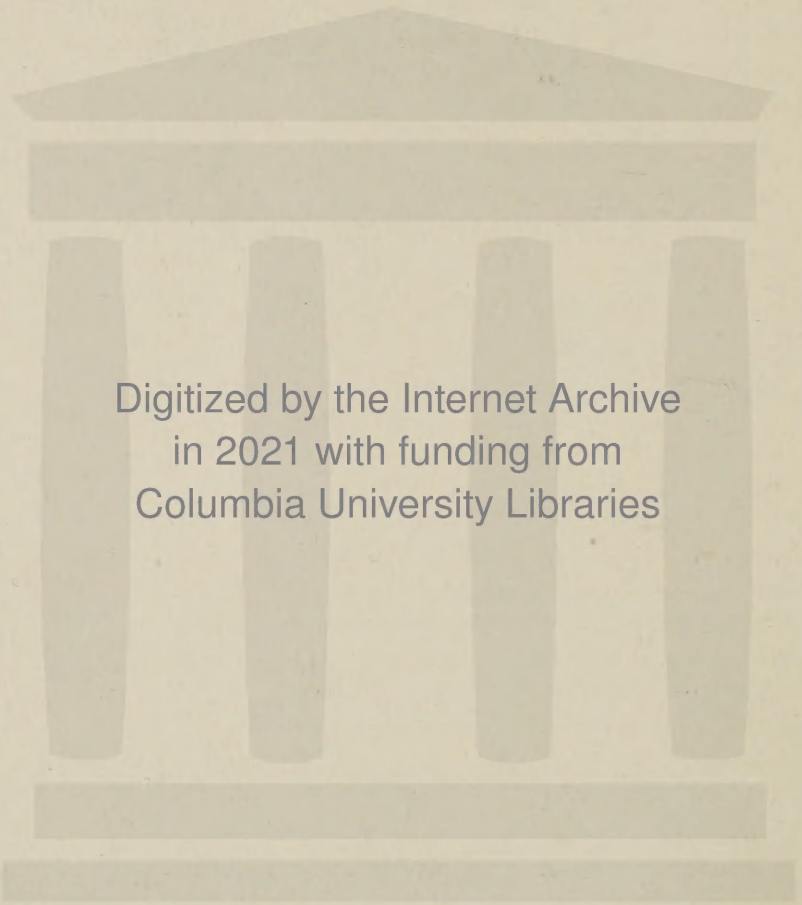
By Mrs. Y. T. Chiu

MISSIONARY RESEARCH LIBRARY NEW YORK CITY

Price Five Cents

The Woman's Missionary Association
UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
411 U. B. Building,
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA.

MISSIONARY RESEARCH LIBRARY
3041 BROADWAY
NEW YORK


Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2021 with funding from
Columbia University Libraries

https://archive.org/details/waytohappinessch00chiu

NOTE

The material for this dramatization was written by Mrs. Y. T. Chiu, who is engaged in kindergarten work in Canton, China. This was first edited by Miss Anna Harwood, and later added to by Dr. Y. T. Chiu.

CHARACTERS

Dr. Y. T. Chiu, superintendent of the mission work.

Rev. T. C. Tse, pastor and evangelist.

Mrs. Grace C. Chue, Bible woman.

Miss Y. S. Lau, teacher.

Mr. T. S. Ip, a gambler.

Mrs. T. S. Ip, an unhappy wife.

Mrs. Tam.

Lai Ching, a young lady.

Thirteen or more school boys and girls.

COSTUMES

Dr. Chiu wears a suit of American clothes.

Rev. Tse and Mr. Ip each wear a long coat extending to the ankles. The sleeves are large and cover the hands.

The Bible woman wears trousers and a blouse extending nearly to the knees.

The teacher may wear a straight dress plainly made and closed at the neck. Hair may be bobbed or drawn back severely from the face.

Mrs. Tam, Mrs. Ip and Lai Ching wear kimonos, and have their hair decorated with flowers or ornaments.

School boys wear trousers and blouses.

School girls may wear kimonos or skirts with blouses.

PROPERTIES

The school room should be simply arranged with books, note books, and pencils about. Small sticks may be substituted for brushes.

The home of Mrs. Tam has a table with idols, incense burners, etc. She offers sacrifice before the idols. Red paper 6x12 inches, with yellow markings may represent the kitchen god. This should be actually burned. Cushions are scattered about, and all sit upon the floor.

The Tea House requires only a small table, chairs, a few dishes, and cups without handles.

The Way to Happiness

Part I.

A teacher, Miss Y. S. Lau (pronounced Loud), enters the class room to begin school, and finds girls playing with paper balls while several boys spin tops. They seat themselves on benches.

MISS LAU: How quiet you are this morning. Shall we start school by singing "Jesus Loves Me"? And then we will all pray the Lord's prayer. *(The children sing one verse in Chinese or English, then all stand and reverently pray the Lord's prayer).*

JESUS LOVES ME

"Yeh so oy ngaw ngaw jee doe,
Yun yow shing shu dui ngaw gong,
Ngaw tsai hoy tai sook quai kui,
Ngaw sui yuen yerk jue keung jong.
Chorus
"Hai yeh so oi ngaw,
Hai yeh so oi ngaw,
Hai yeh so oi ngaw,
Shing shue doey ngaw saw gong."

LORD'S PRAYER

"Ngaw foo choy tin, Yuen yee ming sing,
Yee kwok lum Kark, Yee chee tuck sing,
Choy day yerk tin, Sor suey chee leung
Gum yut chee ngaw, Ngaw min yun foo,
Kow min ngaw foo, Bay mut ngaw see,
Ching ngaw chut ok, Ye kwok kuen wing,
Kai ye saw yow, Yuen kup shai shai,
Shing sum saw yuen."

MISS LAU: Now we will have our lesson in writing. If you will get your brushes and ink ready, I will show you how to make some more of the Chinese characters.

Pupils busily practice the characters while the teacher goes to each one and compliments or helps, with the work.

WONG TONG: Miss Lau, why are the characters so hard to write?

MISS LAU: Chinese writing is a very difficult task. You must learn to hold your brush in the proper position and then carefully trace the characters. The old characters are so hard to write because there are thousands of them, and thus very difficult for a beginner to memorize.

SIEW CHU: How many characters should we learn in order to write a letter?

MISS LAU: You should know at least one thousand characters in order to read, or to write a letter home.

LUM TO: My sister, Kit Ching, who is in the fourth grade, helps mother write letters to Big Uncle. How many characters do you think she knows?

MISS LAU: I think she knows about two thousand characters and writes them very well.

WONG SAI SO: I prefer the characters in the new Chinese alphabet because they are simple and easy to write. The other day our superintendent, Dr. Chiu, told us that in the future all would use the simplified characters.

MISS LAU: Yes, Dr. Yen in North China is teaching the people this new alphabet. Our people in the south do not like the system so well, though it is much

easier to learn. The majority of books are printed in the old characters, and it is difficult to find good books to read if one does not know classical Chinese.

LEE SAU FUN: My brother, Bing Kuen, studies English in the fourth grade and he writes from left to right. In writing Chinese, why do we write from right to left and from top to bottom in each line?

MISS LAU: The majority of our people in China follow the old way of writing from right to left. Personally, I prefer the other way.

CHAN MUI: I think letter writing a very important subject. I used to study in an old Chinese school where we spent several years in memorizing Chinese classics, but we were not taught to write a letter. My grandmother says that she used to pay a fortune teller ten cents to write a letter for her. But since I have learned letter writing in the mission school, I can now write for her.

MISS LAU: That is exactly what we want you to do. Many of our parents can neither read nor write, and we can now help them with the things we have learned in school, and gradually put away evil customs.

KONG SUN YING: My mother used to have bound feet, but now she has loosened them, and stopped my grandmother when she wanted to bind my feet.

IP HO TACK: My father smokes opium and also gambles. I shall do my best to help him put away these evil habits.

YEUNG WAI FONG: My aunt has a slave girl. As our superintendent has taught us that slavery is bad for China, I think I should explain this to my aunt.

TSEH SUM CHUN: My father always beats my mother. I shall tell him not to do so, as it is very wrong.

Much noise is made in talking about the bad habits of their parents and relatives. Hearing the noise, the superintendent enters the class room.

SUPERINTENDENT: What is all this noise about? You should be quiet and give attention to your writing. This is a school and not a market.

MISS LAU: Dr. Chiu, the children became excited when I spoke to them about putting away evil customs in their homes; all are anxious to help their parents and friends.

SUPERINTENDENT: This is very encouraging. Children, if you really desire to help your parents you must study hard in this school. You must keep quiet in the class room so as not to disturb other classes. If you wish to discuss any personal matter, you may speak to your teacher or to me after class.

Here the superintendent leaves the room, After a few moments of silence one of the pupils very quietly asks a question.

HO YUN FAI: Miss Lau, why are there so many different languages in China?

MISS LAU: There have always been a great many different dialects and that is why the new government has made a national language. This has been studied in the schools since 1927. Thus all who attend school will speak the same language. Perhaps you can also teach your brothers and sisters at home.

WU FONG: I used to speak the Sun Ning dialect when I first entered the school, and my schoolmates laughed at me. My uncle speaks the Swatow dialect and I do not understand a word he utters. It will be nice when everyone speaks the same language.

MISS LAU: One reason for civil war is because of misunderstandings due to the lack of a common language. Now all the schools in China must teach the national language.

WU FONG: Miss Lau, may my sister Sui Ming, come to school? Yesterday I took my reading book home and as I showed her the pictures she wanted to learn to read about them.

MISS LAU: Yes, Wu Fong, we will be glad to have Sui Ming come. This is a free school so she will not have to bring money. I will go and see your mother today about her coming.

SUM GO NGA: I would rather come to school than to stay at home because almost every time I enter the house my stepmother beats me with a cane.

SIEW CHU: I think it nicer at school because it is always clean and it isn't at home.

MISS LAU: You may take your reading books and your brushes home with you. There will be a few days of vacation for the New Year holiday, and you may practice writing and show the pictures to the other children. You may go now, and this afternoon I will see if Sui Ming may come to school. I must also see Hok Him because he has not been here for several days.

Part II

Afternoon of the same day. Miss Lau and the Bible woman, Mrs. Grace Chue, arrive at the home of Hok Him Tam, the pupil who has been absent. They find Mrs. Tam sacrificing to the kitchen god, as it is near the end of the year. She places small dishes of roasted pork and chicken, wine and candy before the paper picture of the god; then burns the incense and sprinkles the wine, then touches her head to the floor three times before it. She explains to her guests that she offers prayer to her god for blessings to be given to her family in the coming year. She then burns some false paper money and firecrackers in sacrifice. After completing the ceremony, Mrs. Tam and her guests sit down on cushions placed on the floor.

BIBLE WOMAN: I have come to find out what is the matter with your son, Hok Him. His teacher tells me that he has been absent from school for several days.

MRS. TAM: Hok Him has been ill for several days and I am offering prayers to my gods for his recovery. I hope that he may be all right and return to school in a few days.

MISS LAU: Hok Him is a good boy and does not want to run away from school. I am glad that he is better today.

MRS. TAM: This is very kind of you. I should like to know how my son is getting along in school. I am glad that he is learning but I hope that he will not become a Christian.

BIBLE WOMAN: We want Hok Him to get the best things in our school and we know that it will do him good to become a Christian. You should not worry about that, as it can not possibly injure him.

Hok Him's elder sister, Lai Ching, has entered, and now takes part in the conversation.

LAI CHING: I do not want my brother to become a Christian for he would then destroy our gods and upset our customs. Last week he laughed at us when we bowed down to worship our idols. Now he is sick because he is punished for offending our gods. You have done a bad thing in teaching him to forsake his idols, and now I shall do all I can to keep him from joining your church.

BIBLE WOMAN: Idols are dead things, and thus can not punish any one. We must worship the living God who will reward the righteous, and who has said that the wicked shall be punished. So when Hok Him becomes a Christian he will bring happiness into the home.

MRS. TAM: No, for he would destroy the tablets of his ancestors which we worship, and that would bring disaster to his family. *(She points to some tablets of the ancestors on a high, long table at one side of the room.)*

BIBLE WOMAN: We love and respect our parents, but when they die we do not worship their dead bodies. We worship a true and living God and not a dead idol.

LAI CHING: We believe that when a man dies, his ghost still lives so we make paper articles of the things he used in this world and burn them, that money, clothes, furniture, food, etc., will go to the other world and supply the needs of his ghost, lest he should suffer. Christians do not care anything about the dead.

BIBLE WOMAN: We care more for the soul. If we love Jesus and follow Him, He will help us in life, and when we die He will take us to His heavenly home.

LAI CHING: You Christians set a limit in doing things and so you lose your freedom. You do not even gamble; and a man cannot have more than one wife or own any slave girls; and you cannot do this and you cannot do that.

MISS LAU: We do not believe that happiness is to be found in gambling or in sinful living, but rather in forsaking our sins.

BIBLE WOMAN: Since you have two idols in your house and burn incense to them every morning, I know that you are very religious. If you will only forsake the idols and serve God He will make your life very happy.

MRS. TAM: Our ancestors worshipped these idols and handed them down to us. When they wished to have sons, or to make money, they bowed down to these gods. If these idols were removed we would get into trouble.

BIBLE WOMAN: But your idols are only paper, wood, or stone, and they cannot hear you when you pray. Our God is a living God, and He answers us when we ask according to His will.

LAI CHING: You Christian people try to get others to become Christians by using foreign medicines. You hypnotize people and make them accept your faith. I once passed a church and saw the Christians drinking wine and foreign medicine from little cups.

BIBLE WOMAN: We do not force people to become Christians. Being His followers we cannot do less than to give the gospel to you. We do not use foreign medicine to make people Christian. We have a communion service each month and there we drink grape juice and eat bread in memory of Christ who died for us.

LAI CHING: But if Jesus were the Son of God, as you say, why was He crucified?

BIBLE WOMAN: Wicked people hated Him and put Him to death because they did not wish to obey His teachings. Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins.

LAI CHING: Jesus is a foreigner so how can He save us? We have Confucius and Sun Yat Sen, and we do not want a foreigner to help us.

MISS LAU: But Jesus is the Savior of the world and He came to help everyone who will trust Him.

LAI CHING: We have Dr. Sun Yat Sen, founder of our Chinese republic and the one who gave us freedom. Jesus was not a Chinese, so how can He love us?

BIBLE WOMAN: Dr. Sun Yat Sen was a Christian. His son, now a Minister of Railroads and Marshall Chiang Kai Shek, President of China, are both Christians.

LAI CHING: What benefit is received from being a Christian?

BIBLE WOMAN: As you follow Christ, He will bless and help you. He will make you good and happy as long as you live.

LAI CHING: But I can be good without being a Christian. Not all Christians are good people.

BIBLE WOMAN: Not all Christians are real Christians. If we wish to be perfect we cannot get along without Jesus.

LAI CHING: A Christian is a "foreign devil" because he is too much foreignized. He acts as a foreigner and does not follow our customs. He does not gamble, or tell lies, and is too honest to get rich easily.

BIBLE WOMAN: When we become Christians we forsake evil customs and try to do whatever God may want us to do.

MRS. TAM: Well, I know you people are good when you establish free schools and dispensaries for our people who are poor. And there are also schools for the blind, and homes for the aged.

LAI CHING: Hok Him has learned to say grace before meals and he knows many of your hymns.

BIBLE WOMAN: Since Hok Him has told you something about Jesus may I take a little of your time to explain to you why God sent Jesus into the world, and what it means to be a Christian?

MRS. TAM: I will have my neighbor, Mrs. Ip, come and listen, too.

Lai Ching goes to call Mrs. Ip. Mrs. Ip enters and seats herself on a cushion. Lai Ching brings tea to her mother and the guests.

BIBLE WOMAN: How are you, Mrs. Ip?

MRS. IP: This has been a bad year for us. It has been three coats cold for so long, and my husband has lost much money in gambling. This morning he took some of our clothes to the pawn shop in order to get money with which to buy opium. When he has opium he forgets that it is cold.

BIBLE WOMAN: I am very sorry to hear this. I hope that your husband will stop gambling and using opium for you will then be much happier.

MRS. IP: How can he stop these bad habits? There is no hope for him. I have prayed to my gods, but he goes on just the same.

BIBLE WOMAN: If you will forsake idols and pray to Jesus and trust Him, He will help you.

MRS. IP: But where is Jesus? Where may I find Him? My husband is so rough; how can you bring him to Jesus?

BIBLE WOMAN: Jesus does not live in a temple in this world, but when we pray to Him He hears us.

MRS. IP: If I could see Jesus, perhaps I might believe in Him.

BIBLE WOMAN: We cannot see Jesus as you see the idols. He is a spirit, and is always ready to hear us, and to help us.

During this time they are drinking tea and eating red melon seeds as they talk.

MISS LAU: Your son has been in our school for the past two years. Does he never say anything about Jesus?

MRS. IP: Yes, he often wants to tell me the Bible stories and about Jesus who performed wonderful miracles, but I do not want him to become a Christian.

BIBLE WOMAN: Surely you do not want him to follow the bad example set by his father, and spend all his time gambling and smoking opium. When he becomes a Christian he will be good, and will never do these sinful things.

MRS. IP: I will surely die if my son follows the bad example of his father.

BIBLE WOMAN: You must try, too, to bring your husband to Jesus. He needs a Christian friend to help him.

MRS. IP: I do not know any Christian friend. Can you find some one who will be willing to help him?

BIBLE WOMAN: Our pastor, Rev. Tse, will be glad to help him.

MRS. IP: Will he be so kind as to come and talk with my husband?

BIBLE WOMAN: Rev. Tse and Dr. Chiu invites your husband to take lunch with them at noon to-morrow in the Yee Chun tea house, and there they will talk with him.

MRS. IP: It is very kind of you. I know that Christian folks are always willing to help others.

BIBLE WOMAN: We are happy to render Christian service to anyone in need. We hope and pray that your husband will repent of his sins and live the Christian life, for you will then be very happy.

MRS. IP: Since Jesus can do so much to help us, I wish to learn about Him, that I, too, may become a Christian.

MISS LAU: Since we must call to see if Sui Ming may enter our school we must beg you to excuse us now.

BIBLE WOMAN: Mrs. Ip, I am so glad that you are becoming interested in the gospel of Christ. I shall come again tomorrow to tell you more about Jesus. If you like, you may go with me to church Sunday.

MRS. IP: Thank you very much. Tsing-ysing (good-bye).

Lai Ching takes away the tea things and all leave the stage.

Part III

The following day the superintendent goes to the Yee Chun tea house and has a small room reserved and orders food. This is Chinese "dim-sum" (cakes) and noodles. The pastor calls for Mr. T. S. Ip, and brings him to the tea house. They are seated at a small table.

SUPERINTENDENT: How are you, Mr. Ip? I am glad to see you.

MR. IP: I am a very unlucky man. I always envy you Christian folks because you look so happy.

SUPERINTENDENT: Why are you not happy? Don't you make enough money in business this year?

MR. IP: I have not done any business for two years. I have lost my fortune, and even now I am in need.

SUPERINTENDENT: You will be happy if you resume your work and do not think of the worldly pleasures about you.

MR. IP: How can one feel happy when they are so poor?

REV. TSE: A poor man will be happy when he forsakes sin and loves God.

MR. IP: I think a rich man is the happiest man in the world. I am very anxious to become rich. I have tried every means, and have failed, and now my fortune has gone from me.

REV. TSE: Several years ago you seemed to have money and to get along all right. Now you look pale and thin. I can tell from your face that you have been having some trouble.

MR. IP: To tell the truth, I have spent most of my money during the past two years in gambling and smoking opium. I play ma-jong (sparrow) and fantan in the Wing Fat gambling house most of the time during the day, hoping to become rich very soon.

SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. Ip, I fear that you have been wasting your precious time and the money that you should have saved for your family.

Mr. IP: It may seem to you that I waste money in gambling, but when my chance comes I may win fifty thousand dollars very easily. When this fortune comes to me I shall be very happy.

SUPERINTENDENT: You think too much about getting rich through gambling. Remember that only a very few people have such luck, while the majority of gamblers lose all their money, get into debt, and have to sell their children. Cheung Sam's wife committed suicide not long ago by hanging herself because her husband lost all his money through gambling, and sold her four children. Is not gambling a terrible thing?

REV. TSE: A few years ago a rich man in Hongkong lost half a million dollars in gambling, and had to run away to Japan because he could not pay his fellow gamblers.

MR. IP: You Christian people do not gamble, so how can you ever hope to become rich?

REV. TSE: We feel that it is very wrong to gamble. We do not wish to take money which is not ours. We are happiest when we forsake sin and do what God wants us to do.

MR. IP: Why is it you Christians do not wish to become rich even when you have the chance?

REV. TSE: It is all right to become rich through honest means and by hard work. When you speculate with money which you should save for your family, your family must suffer, and this is very sinful.

SUPERINTENDENT: God wants us to spend our time in doing what is good and right. He will bless us and make us happy when we do the things which are right. The Bible tells us of the things that are right.

MR. IP: Some of our relatives go to the Buck Dai temple to pray to the gods for money. Does your God give money to those in need?

REV. TSE: Money is not God's best gift. He knows what is good for us and will hear our prayer if we are in earnest. Those idols in the temples are only objects made by man, and they can not hear your prayers.

MR. IP: Rev. Tse, I know now that gambling is a bad thing. I have lost most of my money in it. Now I am so poor that I pawn my clothes to get money for rice. But I do not see how I can stop gambling. Can you help me?

REV. TSE: If you are willing to forsake sin and come to Jesus, He will help you to overcome temptation and to become a better man.

MR. IP: But I hate to become a Christian because there are so many things that I cannot do if I join the church.

SUPERINTENDENT: Christians are free to do anything which is good and right. By giving up sinful habits you become free and happy.

MR. IP: You Christians do not tell lies, do not cheat, do not worship your ancestors, and cannot marry two or more wives. I fear you are too much foreignized.

SUPERINTENDENT: The things you have mentioned are not right before God. He will not listen to our prayers if we continue to do that which is sinful.

MR. IP: Why is opium smoking wrong? Christians sometimes smoke cigarettes. I do not see why smoking opium is wrong and smoking cigarettes is not wrong.

SUPERINTENDENT: It is bad for a Christian to smoke. Opium is a poison, and it injures both body and soul. Smoking is a very dirty habit and we hope you will soon be rid of it.

MR. IP: I know that it is wrong to gamble and to smoke opium, but I cannot help it as these habits were formed many years ago.

REV. TSE: How much money do you spend each day for opium?

Mr. Ip takes a small box of opium from his pocket.

MR. IP: I usually smoke from forty to fifty cents worth of opium a day. When the weather is bad and I cannot go to the gambling house I spend even more than that.

SUPERINTENDENT: See how pale and thin you look. Don't you see that this poison is ruining your health? You will feel much better if you use your money to purchase nourishing food for yourself and family, and to plan for the future education of your son.

REV. TSE: If you will forsake your sins and come to Jesus He will help you in all these things.

MR. IP: Who is Jesus? I have never seen Him. Is He a foreign god?

REV. TSE: Jesus is the Son of the living God, Creator of this universe, and He is our loving Savior. He came to this world to save sinners, and He has died for us. Men and women worse than you have been saved through trusting in Him.

MR. IP: Where may I find this Jesus? Is He in the Shing Wong temple in the city of Canton?

REV. TSE: Jesus is not an idol, and does not live in a temple made with hands. He is a living Christ and Savior, willing to help us as we draw near to Him.

MR. IP: Does Jesus understand Chinese? Does He speak Cantonese or the Peking dialect?

SUPERINTENDENT: Jesus understands every language and I am glad that you are interested in Him. As you know more about Him you will love Him and be very happy.

MR. IP: If Jesus can help me and make me happy I shall believe in Him.

REV. TSE: I am sure that Jesus will save you and give you victory.

MR. IP: How can I be saved? I have been so rough and unkind to my wife, and have wasted my money in gambling and opium smoking until now I have no money for the needs of my family.

REV. TSE: Brother Ip, Jesus will save you. He came to call sinners to repentance, and He has saved millions of people from their sins. His grace is sufficient for you. Put your trust in Him. Today salvation has come to you and to your family.

SUPERINTENDENT: There is great hope for you, Brother Ip. Do not be discouraged. When a man realizes that he is a sinner and knows his weakness, and is willing to repent of his sins; when he comes to Jesus and accepts Him as his Savior, he is born anew and saved. I know a number of learned men who say that they have no sins. These persons are hypocrites; there is no hope for such self-righteous men.

MR. IP: I am so very weak; will you pray for me and teach me how to pray?

REV. TSE: Jesus will make you strong, and help you to overcome all temptations. By becoming a Christian you will be entirely a new man.

SUPERINTENDENT: When you go home kneel down before God and confess to Him your sins. Pray to Jesus to forgive, and to cleanse your heart with His precious blood. Pray to Him in real earnest, and He will forgive and help you.

MR. IP: Where may I learn more about Jesus?

SUPERINTENDENT: Here is a Bible for you to read. Study the four gospels, for they make plain the way. Rev. Tse will be glad to help you.

REV. TSE: I shall be glad to come to your home to-morrow and there tell you more about Jesus and His great salvation.

SUPERINTENDENT: We shall be glad to have you unite with our Bible class and attend our Sunday services. Come and see us with your son, Yun Cheung. We shall be happy to welcome you there.

MR. IP: You have been very kind to us. The Christians are doing much to help our poor people. Your school is very good and we have great confidence in the workers. Much money is being spent to help our children.

SUPERINTENDENT: Thank you for your appreciation of our service. You know that the school is supported by the Woman's Missionary Association of the United Brethren Church in America. They have been both kind and generous, and have done much for us during the past seven years. They are anxious to see our people saved. They know that Christianity is intended for the whole world, and see the importance of evangelizing China, so they are providing funds for the work. They will be happy to know that you and others have accepted Jesus as your Savior, and that you mean to obey and follow Him. Do not give any credit to us, but rather to the good sisters across the Pacific who give so liberally to maintain our school and our evangelistic work.

REV. TSE: I am so happy, Brother Ip, to see you as a prodigal son, returning to God. May God bless and help you.

SUPERINTENDENT: As it is getting late, and we must return to the school for a meeting with the staff, let us drink more tea before we separate.

MR. IP: I wish to thank you both for your kindness in showing me the road to happiness.

After drinking more tea they arise and leave the tea house.